

Arch J. Flanagan, Jr.

Arch Jay Flanagan, Jr., son of Arch J. Flanagan and Martha Elizabeth Smith (Cousin Jay and Lizzie) was born May 26, 1900 and died Jan 24, 1985, both in Farmville, NC, Pitt County. He married Mattie Gayle Cheek on May 24, 1928 in Raleigh, NC. He married Rachael Hazelton Jordan in 1959. He and Gayle had four children, 2 boys and 2 girls. Rachael had a son by a previous marriage.

Arch grew up on a farm in the Farmville community. As a child he had white blond hair which later became a dark color. He attended a preliminary school at Lang's Crossroads where the teacher was his mother, Lizzie Flanagan. He was a good student in any case.

You can only wonder what personal relationships parents and children had when he was small. One story was that Arch was corrected on one instance and stuck his tongue out at his father which naturally resulting in him getting a spanking. After the spanking he stuck his tongue out at his father again and got another spanking. He said he stuck his tongue out a third time but made sure he was hidden behind the chimney. Parents in that age did not brook any nonsense.

He was interested in team and outdoor sports and was on the Wake Forest track team. He played intramural basketball in college and enjoyed baseball and outdoor sports including hunting and fishing. One of his daughters recalls that he was the only senior on the track team his senior year which may explain why he was elected captain of the team! His niece, Clara, recalls her father telling her Arch was an alternate for the Olympic track team in 1920 or 1924. He especially liked bird hunting and fishing.

Being born in 1900, he was a young man as WW I developed, too young to be drafted and sent overseas. He was a member of the service in some junior capacity. He actually went into the Army in Wilson, NC near the war's end but was quickly released when the Armistice was signed. Then, during WW II he was too old to be drafted. It is likely he felt thwarted in his sense of duty to be caught age wise in between chances to serve his country.

He went to Wake Forest College studying premed but left to run the family farm in 1924 after his father died, in 1923. His father wanted him to become a doctor but his main interest was farming which he did the rest of his life. At the time he went to college he really wanted to go to NC State and study farming. Farming has always been a challenge but so are many other business endeavors.

He was a member of the Farmville School Board, a commissioner on the Farmville Town Board, supervisor and secretary of the Old Coastal Plain Conservation District and chairman of the Pitt Soil and Water Conservation District. He was also vice-chairman of the Pitt-Greene Production Credit Assn., chairman of the Pitt County Welfare Board,